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The Lodi Hotel - End of an Era

by Maurice Hill

This article is a continuation from Lodi Historian, Volume 1, Number 4.

[Editor's Note: The original Lodi Hotel was located at the southwest corner of Pine and Sacramento streets. It was called the Lodi House by some people.]

By August of 1891 the name of The Sargent House had definitely been changed to The Lodi Hotel, local newspapers having given proof of same.

In April 1893, Mr. and Mrs. Caven left Lodi, Caven having disposed of The Lodi Hotel to George Worley

LeMoin of Drytown. Returning to Stockton, Mr. Caven leased The Southern Hotel which he managed until he passed away September 4, 1897 after a lengthy illness. He was 64 years of age. His wife survived him. There were no children.

George Worley LeMoin was born in Drytown, Amador County, California, Sept. 25, 1857. He went to the public school in Drytown during the regular school season, but at the age of ten he began working in an orchard after school hours, for his board and clothes.

When George was seventeen years of age, he apprenticed himself to a blacksmith for three years. By the time he was 20 he had bought out his employer. He ran this blacksmith shop



George LeMoin, right, poses in front of the bar in the Hotel Lodi. Dick Russill, left, managed the bar for many years.

Hugh Steacy photo, courtesy of Steve Mann

for eight years. This work not agreeing with him physically, he tried a new venture. He purchased the peddling route of an elderly man who traded between Sacramento and the mining districts. However, LeMoin found the work was even worse for him than horseshoeing so he quit this occupation.

At this time, he had the opportunity to lease the Drytown Hotel for a year with the privilege of extending it to three years. In this work he found his proper sphere. However, at the expiration of his lease, business had so increased under his management that the owner wouldn't allow him to renew the lease. So, Mr. LeMoin had to look for a new field to enter. Happily, for him, he heard that the Lodi

Hotel was for sale. He at once purchased the property, and became proprietor of the hostelry in April 1893.

In November of 1879, Mr. LeMoin married Nellie Malson of Drytown. She was a native of Wisconsin, having come to Drytown with her mother and stepfather, Mr. Malson. Her own father's name was Carpenter.

Four daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. LeMoin. Addine (1880-1936) married Frank Beckman, popular co-partner with W.H. Thompson and Hilliard Welch in a general merchandise

business which flourished in the late 1890's and early 1900's. Addine Beckman was the possessor of an unusually fine soprano voice, especially remarkable for its great clarity. For many years she was active in solo and choral work in the Lodi-Stockton area.

The second daughter was Lottie (1883-1969), who married Edwin Steacy of Lodi, proprietor of Henderson's Hardware store on south Sacramento Street. Incidentally, this is the original location of the Beckman, Welch and Thompson store.

Hazel was the third daughter. She was the wife of Lauren Wilkinson, prominent vineyardist and fruit man. Mrs. Wilkinson, a talented pianist, once played for the silent movies at the old Lodi Tokay Theatre on west Elm St.

When Hazel was a child and had reached the age of talking, a local paper of that time describes her as "The pet and pride of Lodi who has more quaint ways and old-fashioned sayings than any child of her age in the state. Hazel LeMoin is as much an institution of Lodi as the hotel itself."

Bernice was the youngest of the LeMoin sisters. She married Albert Randolph of Lodi who, as a commercial artist, ran Randolph's Sign Shop for many years. Bernice passed away in 1990.

Albert Randolph won many honors for his excellent photographic displays at various art exhibits.

George W. LeMoin showed unusual ability in managing the Lodi Hotel, and as a result, business was on the increase. When LeMoin bought the property, the hotel building and the business had run down to the point where there was little profit. Mr. LeMoin lost no time in having every room overhauled from basement to garret, renovating with new wallpaper and paint. New furniture was also installed. It wasn't long until the hotel became a credit to Lodi, and traveling men, accustomed to staying at Stockton hotels, made the Lodi Hotel their headquarters while working in the territory.

Lodi Hotel soon became widely known for pleasure parties, and on Sundays it was a common sight to see the place crowded with young folks from Stockton who had driven out to Lodi by bicycle or buggy.

The two-story hotel building was embowered by tall locust trees which gave a splendid shade during the summer. At the second story level a deep balcony ran along the east and north



George Worley LeMoin

sides of the structure. This provided a fine vantage place to view the frequent parades in Lodi.

As of 1893, Mr. LeMoin had the large brick fireplace removed, and installed a stove to heat the office.

In 1893, Lodi Hotel had 35 well-lighted rooms, all being outside rooms, adequately furnished and clean. The dining room fare was considered the best available in town. Attendance, in consequence was excellent. The hotel was connected with the city gas and water works, had its own water supply consisting of a 5,000 gallon tank supplied from a deep well by a windmill located in the rear of Barnhart's Hall just south of the hotel. Water and fire extinguishers were located in several parts of the building.

During the 42 year reign of the old hotel, under its three different names — The Spencer House, The Sargent House and the Lodi Hotel — there



Nellie LeMoin

were a great many interesting affairs held there, and also some unscheduled events, some of which partook of the ridiculous, and, yet again, took on aspects of near-tragedy. One illustration of the latter type of incidents was on June 1, 1896. It has been described thus:

"Terrorized the dining room — Mr. Jackson, the man who figured prominently in the late Sontag-Evans hunt, and now is guard in the employ of the Wells-Fargo and company, created a stampede in the Lodi Hotel, Wednesday, with a big six-shooter. He came to town somewhat the worse for liquor and was not long in augmenting his condition until he was ugly drunk. At dinner, he picked out Mac D. Green as a likely victim and began to insult the latter, whom he had never seen before, in a most shameful manner. Finally, the drunken guard pulled out his revolver and pointing it in Mr. Green's direction, told the gentleman to keep his seat and finish eating as he desired to institute a hanging bee with him when the meal should be finished. Mr. Green sat still.

"Ben Whiting entered the dining room and the ugly guard trained the gun on him and commanded him to stand against the wall. Whiting obeyed.

"Alex Friedberger attempted to make a quiet exit, but Jackson drew a bead on him and ordered him to sit down if he considered his life of any value. Alex sat down, for a six-shooter is not the most pleasant thing in the world to contemplate, although it is the most persuasive.



The Lodi Hotel as it appeared in 1905. Located on the corner of Pine and Sacramento streets, the hotel was the center of many social events.

"The man with the 'load' and the gun then turned to Green again and began denouncing him in vile terms, still keeping the revolver ready for action. Thus, with the dining room in a state of terror, the drunken fellow was evidently in his element and reflecting great credit upon his employers for the manly way in which he was conducting himself.

"Just how the affair might have terminated would be hard to imagine had not proprietor LeMoin ventured upon the scene. He finally managed to induce the bully to put down the gun and leave in peace. Jackson went away on the train in the afternoon for none of the gentlemen insulted cared to invoke the power of the law and give him his deserts."

In 1896, a man known to Lodians as Frank Scott drifted into town. He managed to obtain a position at Lodi Hotel as clerk. Scott made many friends and had the confidence of G.W. LeMoin and other Lodians.

On the morning of January 27, 1898, Mr. LeMoin found a note at Scott's door stating he had gone for a bicycle ride and would return by 8:30 a.m. As he didn't return, LeMoin went to his room and found three notes addressed to local businessmen in which he asked them not to think of him as a "beat", and stated he would pay them the bills he owed sometime in the future. He had borrowed sums of money from a number of local men, and he was also in debt for things purchased at several stores. Lillie brothers were the heaviest losers which amounted to \$65 on a bicycle and clothes.

About a week before leaving town, Scott said to an acquaintance, "You keep your eyes open ... something is going to happen here pretty soon." He was asked in a joking way what he was going to do, but he only laughed and replied, "You'll know about it soon enough! You'll get a card one of these days."

The name, Frank Scott, by which the man was known in Lodi, turned out to be an alias, his real name being James F. McCorkle. Evidently, he had changed his name for reasons best known to himself. It was reported, after he left Lodi, that he had done time in the southern part of the state for some petty crime. It was also said that efforts were being made to locate and bring him back to make amends.

In December of 1896, the hotel had a unique visitor. A man by the name of Thaler, one of those professional walkers about the earth without a cent, presented himself to the hotel management, and as a result, he received a night's free entertainment. He had left Montreal, Canada, over a year ago in May, according to a silver medal worn conspicuously. He would have reached Lodi sooner had not enforced residence in county jails delayed him. He carried a book for the signature of those who furnished his room and board, free of charge on his journey, and he had a fine collection. And, as the local newspaper commented, "This is a good world for some people."

Touches of humor were not lacking in the daily doings at Lodi hotel.

Under Mr. LeMoin's management, the old hotel was conducted according to Hoyle. He stood for no nonsense. Everything had to be on the up and up with perfect order prevailing. It is told that once a "shady lady" registered and was given a room facing Pine Street. The upper porch fronted the room, and Mr. LeMoin delegated Robert Patton, who was then clerk, to see if everything was as it should be. Patton tried to do so, but he accidentally stepped upon an aged board that gave way and allowed his lower limbs to go through the flooring. It is said that "It took a week to get the slivers

out, and Mr. LeMoin had to do his own scouting after that."

Florence Huffman Sinks, who attained the age of 94, recounted that it was her habit to have lunch at The Lodi Hotel each working day as it was convenient to her position at Friedberger and Kaiser's dry goods store which was only a block distant.

She told of how, sitting down to lunch one day in the hotel dining room, she became aware of two local and well-known young men sitting at a table nearby, and facing her. She remarked they had mischief in their eyes, and were trying to stare her down. She at once put down her napkin, crossed her arms and stared those two fellows out of countenance. She stated she made it so uncomfortable that they finally arose and left the dining room, vanquished from the field. Those who had observed the incident, complimented Mrs. Sinks, saying it was the best job she had ever done. Evidently, the two offenders had learned their lesson for they never tried to embarrass her again.

Another story is about the out-of-door chair warmers, the idle men who sat by the hour observing anything and everything. It is related that once when the hotel was painted on the outside, these watchers could tell you how many brush strokes were necessary for each board, and when the painter didn't apply the lead accord-



Some "chair warmers" in 1895. From left, unknown, Ben Wallace, Bentley, Tom Wallace, G.W. LeMoin, Dick Russill, John Wallace, John Meyers, Benedick Williams, John Dady, Jim Anderson and William Sherry.



The Lodi Hotel was the focal point of many early events. These three photos show milestones in the history of early Lodi. In early 1907, with the traction line tracks already in place, the foundation is being poured for the Lodi Arch. At center, the hotel is prepared for the 1907 Tokay Carnival which was the forerunner to today's Grape Festival. For an early Fourth of July celebration, the hotel was decked with bunting and flags, and Sacramento Street took on a patriotic air.

ing to their dictates, trouble was in store for the man. These old cronies wanted to watch the paper hanging inside, but LeMoin wouldn't stand for it, for with them in the room, there wouldn't be room for the hangers to work.

On one occasion, their curiosity and gossiping nearly got a new dishwasher, hired by the management, into serious trouble, and also, as a result, brought well-deserved wrath upon themselves.

"It seems that the dishwasher was a bashful fellow and didn't mix with the gang when his work was done. It was therefore discussed and analyzed until someone arrived at the brilliant idea that as long as the 'pot-wrestler' wouldn't show his face, he must be guilty of some serious crime. This rumor grew wings and flew faster than telegraphic news. Consequently, it wasn't long before a secret service man was in Lodi to arrest the man. However, after a short interview with the dishwasher, that detective scared the tobacco juice out of the bunch when he threatened to arrest everyone of them for slander."

Speaking of long-time boarders at Lodi Hotel, A.A. McClellan, of Woodbridge, the oldest conductor on the Southern Pacific Railroad, probably held the record. It was published that he had had lunch every day at the hotel for over 25 years, and always occupied the same seat.

According to Bob Patton, now deceased, who began working at the hotel in 1899, and continued for six or seven years, meals were 25¢ for regular boarders. There was one table for drummers or salesmen, at 50¢ per meal. Patton stated there was one bathroom in the hotel. There was a medium-sized parlor on the second floor which contained a piano. There



were six rooms saved for salesmen and the traveling public. The drummers and others wanting to go to the Mother Lode country would go from the hotel over to Siegalkoff's livery stable and get a horse and wagon for the trips to the hills.

Bob Patton related how he used to go over to the railroad station with a two-wheeled cart to pick up the baggage of those patronizing the hotel.

Incidentally, it was in 1899, while Patton was employed at Lodi Hotel, that the popular Patton and Springer orchestra was formed. This orchestra played for many years in and about Lodi as well as numerous Mother Lode towns.

The bar in the Lodi Hotel was run by the Russill brothers with R.M. Russill in charge. "Mr. Russill has pleased the patrons of the house and his management has been more than satisfactory to Mr. LeMoin, proprietor of the hotel. The trade is exacting at this place as the best goods in every line are demanded, but "Dick" has been equal to the occasion from the beginning, and has made many friends."

The Lodi Sentinel for Dec. 23, 1905 tells, in the following piece, about the sale of the Lodi Hotel by Mr. LeMoin: "The most important transaction that has been made in Lodi, recently, was consummated this week in the purchase of the Lodi Hotel.

"George LeMoin received from the purchasers, John W. Dougherty, Charles Ray and James Whitaker the sum of \$16,000 of which \$12,000 is in cash and the balance of \$4,000 worth of property. This property consists of a town lot in west Lodi opposite the residence of R.L. Graham, near the Catholic church, and the residence known as the Ross Buckingham cottage. LeMoin will occupy this cottage and is now arranging to move therein." The sale was made as of Dec. 21, 1905.

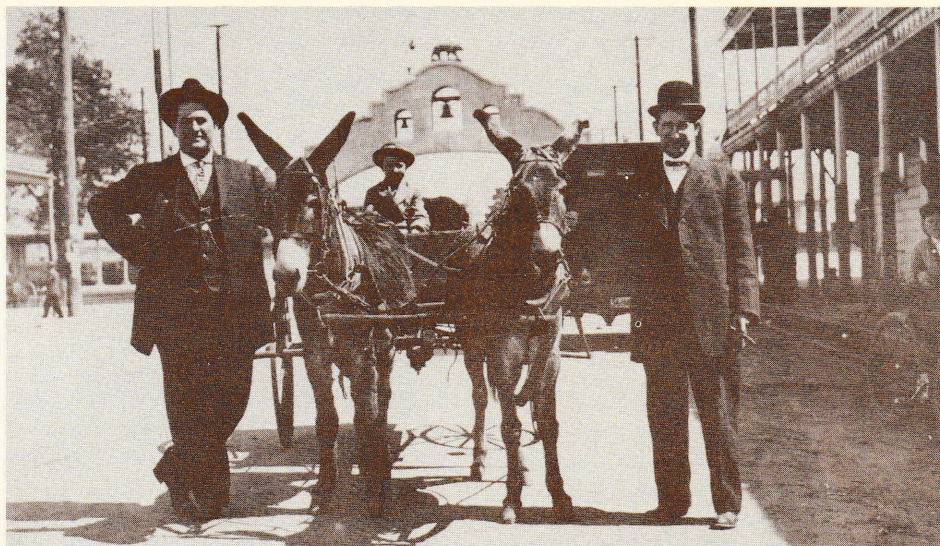
After retiring from the hotel business, Mr. LeMoin confined his interests to a vineyard which he owned.

George LeMoin was also a director of the First National Bank of Lodi.

It is worth recording that Mr. LeMoin was one of six men who were instrumental in securing Lodi's first cemetery in 1896. LeMoin was president of the Cemetery Association.

George W. LeMoin passed away in Lodi, 1931.

When the partnership of Dougherty, Ray and Whitaker took over the



Emery Thompson, left, and Henry W. Thompson pose with a mule team alongside the Lodi Hotel. Ed Wright may be the person in the drivers seat.

hostelry, John Dougherty, "Johnnie" as he was popularly called, was the best known of the three to Lodians of the early 1900's.

John Wesley Dougherty was born Jan. 31, 1853 at Placerville, California, being the son of Lemuel Josiah and Lydia Maria (Meeker) Dougherty. On Nov. 22, 1877 he married Eliza Jane Ruffner at Jackson. There were two daughters, Eva and Helen, the former becoming Mrs. Charles Perryman and, later, Mrs. G.R. Baker of Stockton. As Mrs. Perryman, she conducted a millinery shop in Lodi. Helen Dougherty married Joe Sinai of Lodi.

Johnnie Dougherty moved from Placerville to the Woodbridge area and lived with his parents who were settled there. He lived also in New Hope (Thornton) for some time, moving to Lodi in 1881.

Dougherty, previous to being in the hotel business was a partner with Mr. Beardsley in the Fashion Livery Stable. This partnership began in 1881 the year Johnnie came to Lodi. By March 1882, Dougherty had bought out Beardsley's interest in the business and was the sole owner.

Johnnie Dougherty was a well-known sportsman in the Lodi area as well as elsewhere. It was announced in Oct. 1885 that John Dougherty, proprietor of Riverside Park, would have a formal opening for the park on October 16. Races were scheduled for the afternoon with a ball to be given in the evening at Larson's Hall. The park was located on the Truman Stoddard ranch just southwest of the bridge on

Cherokee Lane, a racetrack having been laid out and put in fine shape.

In May 1886 the "Lodi Cyclone" heralded the grand race to be held at Riverside Park on May 28th and 29th. A ball was also slated to be held on the racetrack grounds in a large tent owned and operated as a dance pavilion by A.J. Larson.

In September, 1887, the "Lodi Sentinel" records that Dougherty had a mile track at his Riverside Park. The first race of the season was scheduled for the afternoon of Sept. 10. It was to be a half mile dash for \$40 between Thomas Troy's "Fetch-It-Home" and John Eddleman's "Weasel," this being the main event on the program. Both horses were known as flyers.

"Adjacent to the race course was a small lake. Johnnie had a notice inserted in the 'Lodi Cyclone' to the effect he was warning parties against fishing in the lake on his premises. He stated that for two or three days, after recent baptismal service in those waters, the surface was covered with fish floating floating on their backs, and that he was confident that the wickedness washed from the penitent sinners afflicted the fish to such an extent as to make them unfit for table use."

By 1892, John Dougherty had sold out his interests in Lodi such as the livery stable business and his racetrack, and had moved out to Potato Slough at a location known as Grand Junction. It wasn't long before Dougherty changed the name to Terminous. He is credited with being the founder of the town. He established a hotel

and a general merchandise store in a two-story building and resided at this location for ten years.

His niece, Mrs. Charles Fisher, (Gwendolyn Dougherty), said the hotel rooms, located above the store, were separated from one another by sheets which acted as room partitions.

Mrs. Fisher related that Dougherty's elder daughter, Eva, drove the stage back and forth between Terminous and Lodi, also picking up the mail in the latter town. Incidentally, there were times when Terminous was marooned from the rest of the world due to high water and mud on the road.

It was announced on April 18, 1896 that J.W. Dougherty expected to have his tread-power ferryboat in operation by the following week.

Dougherty didn't reside at the hotel at Terminous, having built a cottage across the street from the inn.

It was soon after Johnnie's return to Lodi that he, Charles Ray and James Whitaker formed a partnership and bought Lodi Hotel.

In March of 1908, Charley Lung, cook at Lodi Hotel for the past quarter of a century, purchased The Blue Front Restaurant from Sung Lee. Charley, through the Sentinel, asked his friend-sand acquaintances to "Come and see me."

Dougherty is mentioned as being the local fire chief as of April 1907, and later, in October, he had established a hack service in Lodi, evidently in connection with the hotel.

A humorous note was introduced into the Lodi Daily Herald, Jan. 23, 1908, when an article appeared regarding Bounce, a fox terrier which had been

at the hotel for some time. It seems that a theatrical troupe had come to Lodi and had put on a play, "The Girl of the Streets", at the local opera house. When the company departed from town, Bounce left with them. "Dougherty telephoned ahead and notified the conductor that Bounce would return to his old home. Bounce promptly asked to have a rope put about his neck so that he could be returned to Lodi."

After about six years in the hotel business, Dougherty sold out his interest in the old hotel to James Whitaker. It is probable that Charlie Ray also sold out at this time.

Leaving the hotel, Johnnie devoted his energies to his ranches, his special hobby being an asparagus ranch west of Woodbridge.

Mr. Dougherty was a deputy sheriff under Sibly for several years.

John Wesley Dougherty passed away on September 13, 1917 at his home located on the northwest corner of Sacramento and Locust streets. He was 64 years of age.

Felicité Levinsky Thrift, interviewed at the age of 97, spoke enthusiastically of Lodi in the early days and of the wonderful times she had there. She recalled the many dances she attended and "Never missed a dance." She especially remembered Johnnie Dougherty as an exceptionally smooth dancing partner.

Charles Ray hailed from Galt. It has been said that when he came to Lodi he was a good-looking young bachelor and he was much sought after by the young ladies of Lodi. He was popularly known as "Chip".

Before Ray came to Lodi, he and James Whitaker had a general merchandise store in Galt.

James Whitaker, the third partner in the Lodi Hotel, also came from Galt. He was the one who furnished the money for the purchasing of the hotel. It seems he had sold land north of Galt Cemetery and east of the railroad for \$90 an acre, so, no doubt some or all of this money went toward the purchasing of the Lodi Hotel.

In May of 1912, the Bank of Lodi bought the corner lot on which the hotel stood, it being the intention of the bank to put up a modern building for its own use. The deal was closed May 10, 1912. The price paid for the property, having a frontage of 60 feet on Sacramento Street and 150 feet on Pine Street, was \$18,000. At the time of the sale, W.L. Robinson, was manager of the old inn, and, in fact, he had been manager for the previous two years. When sold, the company of Dougherty, Whitaker and Ray existed only in name, and was immediately dissolved. Whitaker had obtained a lease on the building which gave him the privilege of running the hotel until November 1912. Thus, the bank could not take possession before this date.

At this time the bank appointed a building committee composed of D.A. Guernsey, W.H. Thompson, and George E. Lawrence, Hilliard E. Welch was president of the bank in 1912.

In October of 1912, an interesting article appeared in the "Lodi Sentinel" regarding the Lodi Hotel. Excerpts are given here of data not already noted in this history of the old hostelry:

"It won't be long until the old Lodi Hotel will be razed and a modern structure raised in its place. With the demolition of the building, Lodi loses one of its old-time landmarks. For years and years the place has done noble and necessary duty as Lodi's one and only hostelry. Men of prominence, senators, congressmen, governors and legal lights have found shelter 'neath its roof, and sustenance at its table.

"Chinese cooks have prepared the food, and pretty waitresses carried it to the tables. In the one large dining room, three classes supped at three sets of tables ... drummer, genteel and laborers. They do say the bouquets on the drummers' table is the only distinction between the bill of fare for the other tables. That dining room is



Terminous Hotel in Terminous, the town founded by John Dougherty, who also operated the Lodi Hotel.



A gathering of those "new-fangled horseless carriages" in front of Lodi Hotel. G.W. LeMoin is in first car on left.

an historic old thing. It was, once upon a time, the only schoolhouse in Lodi. It was moved from the Salem lot ages ago. Such well-known Lodians as George Kettleman, Elliott Morse, George Lawrence, Charles Ferdun, Judge Norton, Dave Smith, Ed Hutchins, Martin Troy, Ed Wright, Tom Troy, and countless others learned their three R's in the present dining room.

"There used to be a great crowd in the hotel when George LeMoin was landlord. Al Friedberger, his brother, Joe, Frank Ralls, Sam Zimmerman, George Keagle and many other Lodians who are now men of family, and prominent in a business way, had regular places and napkin rings in the dining room. To have a napkin ring marked them as regular boarders. These holders meant that a clean napkin was given every four days. The rest of us who refused the rings were given clean linen every meal.

"The barroom was the setting for a nightly gathering of the town sports who congregated to play pedro on the slot machines. One old-fashioned nickel-in-the-slot contraption could be successfully worked by dropping in the coin, turning the handle to a certain point and then hitting the framework a smart blow with a poker. The old gambling contrivance always belched four-bits in nickels if you hit it right. The proceeds were spent over the bar so LeMoin was not out very much. The late Fred Morrell was the bartender. He always gave gratis a "night-cap" to those who stayed until

he closed the bar. It was surprising the number of fellows who dropped in at midnight, men who became 'some pumpkins' in this city.

"In the hotel office was a dinky old desk, a round-bellied wood stove surrounded by the usual box of sawdust that soaked up the tobacco juice. On cold nights, a bunch of chair-warmers gathered here to shape the destiny of the country. They always succeeded in boring the hotel guest, but LeMoin didn't have the heart to chase them out.

"In the cool of the summer evening, these fellows hitched their chairs to the curbing and lamented upon the utter utterness of things. It was the same old crowd that you'll find in any small town. The habit of sitting down had made them hump-shouldered, and they enjoyed the distinction of being the town oracles on anything from raising babies to extracting cheese from the moon."

The last meal was served at the Lodi Hotel on Oct. 29, 1912.

Demolition of the famous Spencer House-Sargent House-Lodi Hotel began on Nov. 2, 1912, one day after James Whitaker's lease on the building came to its conclusion. However, the lobby and bar remained open until the middle of December. The Lodi Hotel was completely torn down by Dec. 26, 1912.

Irey and Benedict, hired to wreck the hotel building, reported that no buried treasure was unearthed; however, Benedict did find some money which he was able to restore to its owner.

While working, Mr. Benedict saw an old coat and vest in one of the rooms. Thinking they might be of use to him at some time in the future, he took them home, and threw them out into the woodshed. Later, he happened to go through the pockets and to his great surprise he found a pocketbook containing 30 dollars in currency and 85 cents in small change. He also found a letter which identified the owner as a man by the name of Pritchard. The letter was from his mother begging him to come home. Investigation revealed that Pritchard had been locally employed for the past year, and having been paid off, he was having a good time with the money. Pritchard had bought a new suit from the local Enterprise store and had gone into one of the hotel rooms to make a change of clothes. He had been drinking when he made the change and was in the same condition when Benedict found him a few days later. Mr. Benedict waited until the man was sober, then escorted him over to the dept, bought his ticket so he could return to his mother, and just as the train was pulling out, he handed Pritchard his balance of the money.

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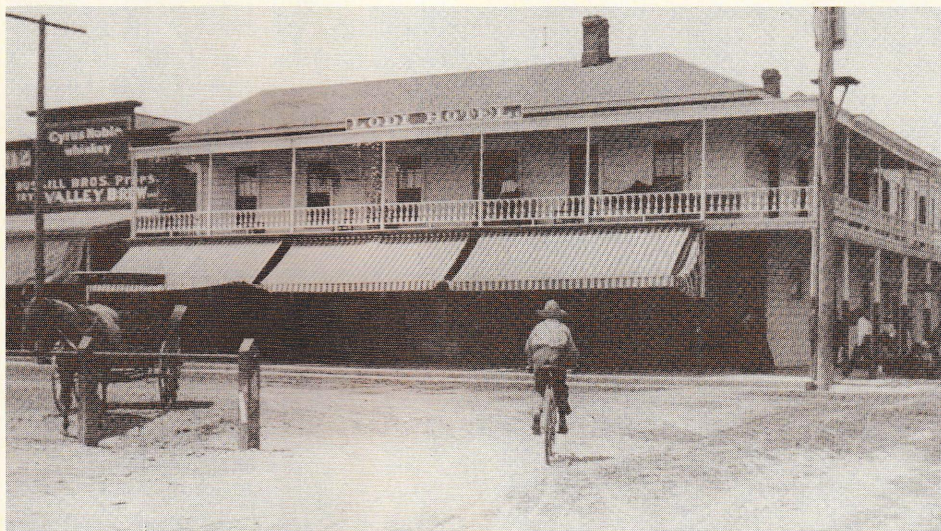
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This early view of the hotel must have been taken around 1895. The windmill and trees are still in place.

Hugh Steacy photo, courtesy of Steve Mann



By early 1900, the hotel's appearance had become more modern and the Russill brothers had taken over the bar.

"Irey and Benedict found a ready sale for the great amount of lumber in the hotel structure and sold it as fast as they could take it out. It was reported that the two men would make quite a neat sum for the timber extracted and sold."

By Dec. 28, everything had been sold except the plate glass windows.

By this time, many schemes for supplying the demand for hotel accommodations were being discussed, and the possibility of turning the Madison into a hotel was being considered.

As early as May 13, 1912, the Lodi Sentinel mentioned that Mr. Whitaker had the idea of building a hotel in Lodi

but had not determined the location. By October 1912, it was noted that the new hotel was to be built in the future on the corner of Pine and School streets.

In Dec. 1912, architect, Ralph P. Morril was being urged to make haste in perfecting his plans for the new hotel so that they might be submitted for bids without delay. The new lot was surveyed at this time and stakes were set out establishing the corners.

And so, after 41 years of continuous service to the public, the hotel, which had borne three names which had become famous, was no more, and a new era of hotel activity was at hand.

Following are reprints of articles that appeared in Lodi's early newspapers. They give a humorous insight into our forebearers daily lives.

They Understood One Another

The late Ross Barbour, former real estate man of Lodi, told of a Miwok Indian in the town of Lockeford who moved in with a Chinese at the time Lockeford had a Chinese Colony.

Residents were astonished to find that within two or three weeks the two were conversing fluently in a tongue that certainly wasn't English.

It was wondered whether there were common words in both tongues due to the fact that the Miwok's ancestors are thought to have come originally from Asia.

NIGHT VIGILS

Mrs. Belle Wright, long since deceased, told me a number of interesting anecdotes from her long residence in Lodi.

According to her, in the early days it was the custom of friends to sit up nights with the remains of a departed neighbor or acquaintance.

Mrs. Wright and her husband quite often offered to perform this service for those who had been bereaved. Mr. Wright would say to those who had lost a loved one, "Why, we can do that just as well as not." However, when it came to the actual doing, he would lie down on a couch or sit in an easy chair and spend the hours in serene slumber while his wife did the watching.

In those days there was no embalming and every once in awhile she would have to wring out the cloths in a solution of salt peter and place them on the hands and face to keep them from discoloring.

She also told how on one occasion all the cats in the neighborhood climbed up on the screen door and prowled about trying to get in. They pronounced it a "Horrible Night."

A POEM

[A Reprint by The Lodi Valley Review from the Galt Gazette in June of 1884]:

"Only an acre of leather,
Laced with a furlong of twine,
Shuffling over a crossing,
Bearing a figure divine
One after another, they're lifted,
And fall with a horrible thud
The feet of a Lodi damsel
Splashing along through the mud."